



Lost Grove Lake

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

Scott County
Soil and Water
Conservation
District

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Our Mission:

The mission of the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in conservation and the wise use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced, cooperative program that protects, restores and improves those resources.

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LOST GROVE LAKE IN REVIEW

The Lost Grove Lake (LGL) project is quickly coming to an end. The grant funding for this project will conclude at the end of September. I would like to take this opportunity to examine the progress and success of the past three years.

The LGL project started in April of 2004 with the goal of working with land owners, DNR, and other stakeholders to improve conservation within the Lost Grove Lake watershed. We did not meet all of our goals, yet the project can be deemed a success. I am pleased to say that in that time, all operators with Highly Erodible Land have filed an up-dated conservation plan.

Through the determination and hard work of the coordinators and the conservation awareness of the stakeholders many Best Management Practices (BMP's) have been constructed in the watershed. Since its start, 5.6 acres of waterways have been constructed, 1072 acres have been

enrolled in the EQIP Nutrient Management program, and 321 acres are enrolled in the EQIP Pest Management program. 14 sediment basins have been placed on public owned land. In addition, a sediment basin was placed at substation 91, and another was placed North of the



future lake. In November of 2006, 3.6 acres were placed in a CRP filter strip contract along Lost Creek. 9 acres of filter strips are scheduled for re-enrollment in October 2007. Others have shown interest in placing filter strips along Lost Creek.

With the completion of the 220th causeway, the upper 50 acres of the lake has filled. The hard work of all has resulted in the reduction of sediment and run-off reaching the lake. Since the start of the project, the estimated sediment delivery has dropped from .68 tons/acres/year to .46 tons/acre/year. Sheet and rail erosion has also declined from 2.39 tons/acre/year to 1.77 tons/acre/year.

With all this success it is important to remember that more can still be accomplished within the watershed to ensure the health of Lost Grove Lake. The end of this grant does not mean the end of conservation within the watershed. The NRCS office is still happy to help place additional BMP's in the watershed. If you would like to take advantage of the new increased CCRP rental rates please contact the office to set-up an appointment.

BASINS COMPLETED

The Iowa DNR has completed the last five sediment basins surrounding Lost Grove Lake. Over the last three years



the DNR has constructed 14 basins surrounding the lake. Four of the last five basins are located north of the upper 50 acres of the lake between Utica Ridge and 200th Ave. The fifth basin is located south of the lake just east of 220th Ave.

These basins are primarily designed to trap sediment and run-off reducing the amount that reaches the lake. In doing this, the basins work to ensure a long healthy lake life. In addition



tion to this benefit, the basins act as individualized wetland creations providing open water for wildlife. Deer and other animals will use it for a watering source, while ducks and geese often prefer these smaller pools.

CRP RATE INCREASE

GREAT NEWS!!!! Rental rates for NEW Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts increased by 30%! July 26th 2007 the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced the increase of rental rate payments. Rental rates are based off of soil type and corn suitability ratings (CSR). Soils with higher CSR receive a higher rental rate, with the best soil receiving up to **\$227 per acre per year** for installed conservation practices. In addition to the rental payment, land owners

could receive an addition 20% added to the rental rate, \$100-\$150 an acre sign-up incentive, up to 90% cost-share for installation of the practice, a maintenance payment, and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This is a great opportunity to place some of your less productive and environmentally sensitive areas into a CRP practices. CRP practices include several wetland options, windbreaks/living snow fence, riparian/

filter strip areas, grassed waterways, and quail habitat buffers. If you are interested in learning more about CRP practices please call the NRCS or FSA office at 563-391-1403.



PROJECT REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULED

Mark your calendar!! The Lost Grove Lake project final review is scheduled for August 28, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Eldridge Public Library. This is a great opportunity to examine and discuss the successes and challenges faced over the last three years of the project. As stakeholders you are highly encouraged to attend this meeting and share your opinions and perspectives of the project. Refreshments will be served. An RSVP is not required but would be appreciated. If you plan to attend please contact the office at 563-391-1403 ex.3

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